

Application No.: 10/600,439
Amendment dated: October 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: July 26, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 4 and 5 canceled to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 5 which depends from claim 4 (which depends from claim 1) has been cancelled and incorporated into claim 1. Likewise, claim 4 has been cancelled and incorporated into amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 corresponds to cancelled claim 5 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable as well.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103. As previously indicated, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the elements of cancelled claim 5 which was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 1-3 and 6-9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance as well. In view of the amendments to claim 1, withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art individually or collectively shows the invention as claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims appears to be warranted and the same is respectfully requested. In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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